



**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the Application.

1. (Currently Amended) A down-the-hole drill assembly having an upper chamber, reciprocating piston, lower chamber and a drill bit with an inner end, body and face wherein [[characterized in that]] the inner end of the bit is closed and exhaust passages are provided from the upper and lower chambers past the inner end of [[a]] the bit and through the body of the bit to exit through the bit face.

2. (Currently Amended) A drill assembly as claimed in claim 1 [[characterized in that]] wherein the exhaust passages exit via at least one vent extending through the bit body from the bit face.

3. (Currently Amended) A drill assembly as claimed in claim 1 [[characterized in that]] wherein the bit has openings extending transversely through the [[wall]] body of the bit into a blind bore extending from the bit face.

4. (Currently Amended) A drill assembly as claimed in claim 3 [[characterized in that]] wherein a flushing air orifice extends through the closed inner end of the bit.

5. (Currently Amended) A drill bit [[characterized in that it is]] for the down-the-hole drill assembly as defined in claim 1.